

Guidelines for Reopening the Sanctuary for Worship at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

These guidelines have been developed and approved by St. Paul's Church Council in conjunction with the recommendations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Wisconsin Council of Churches (a resource recommended by our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Guidelines may be adjusted as recommended during this time of the corona virus pandemic.

Attendance Guidelines

1. In person worship will begin the weekend of Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. Services offered will be at our regular summer times of Saturday, 5 pm and Sunday, 9 am. Additional service times will be considered, if needed. Livestreaming on Facebook will continue at the 9 am service on Sunday.
2. Attendance will be limited to 25 persons per service as stated in the yellow phase of Pennsylvania guidelines. Everyone will need to reserve the service they would like to attend with the church office. Between Friday 3 pm and the weekend services, people may call or text Pastor Kathy to check if there is space available for the weekend's services. When making a reservation, please give your first and second choice of service.
3. As people arrive, they will be checked off the reservation list as having attended. Our church secretary will maintain these lists as a tool for tracing if anyone later develops COVID-19.
4. Please do not attend worship if you have a fever, cough, cold, or any other respiratory symptoms. Do not attend worship if you have recently been exposed to COVID-19. If your medical condition makes you vulnerable or compromised in anyway, we invite you to join us on livestream.
5. All persons attending in person worship must agree to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and only sit in designated pews and spaces. You may not be able to sit in your usual pew. Only family members will be allowed to sit in the same pew. Worship leaders (pastor, lector) may not have to wear a mask if they are leading worship and are well over 6 ft. away so that their voices may not be muffled. Leaders will wear masks when moving around or within 6 ft. of other people.
6. We ask people do not arrive more than 30 minutes before worship and enter by the double glass doors at the front of the church. Exit will be by the doors facing the parking lot. When entering the sanctuary, we ask you enter by the center aisle and exit by the side aisles.

Worship Experience

1. Bulletins will be provided, but you may bring the order of service that is mailed. Do not leave your bulletin for recycling, but rather take your bulletin home.
2. Offering will not be collected separately. We encourage you to drop it in wall boxes before you enter the sanctuary or make use of online giving.
3. Peace will be offered by a reverent bow to others without moving from your seat. You are also encouraged to offer the peace to those worshipping online.
4. Singing will not be part of worship when we first open. Singing together is one of the riskiest behaviors, even from a distance, due to the distance aerosol and droplets carrying the virus can spread.
5. Unison speaking, such as the Lord's Prayer will be done quietly and softly.
6. Holy Communion will not be celebrated until we are well into the green phase. At that time, we will follow the best practices recommended for health and safety.
7. Prayer requests will continue to be received by email, text, or phone call.
8. Greeting of the pastor or other members at the back of the church before or following the service is discouraged at this time so as to maintain 6 ft distancing.
9. The order of service will be similar to the online worship offered over the last few months. The weekly email blast and bulk mailing will continue at this time.

Physical Building and Grounds

1. Overall cleaning and disinfection will be done on a regular basis, especially before or after each worship service. High touch surfaces will be given special attention.
2. All items including cushions, hymnals, attendance books, pens, and prayer requests will be removed from the pews until it is safe for these items to return.
3. Hand sanitizer will be provided at various places to maintain safety.
4. Extra cloth masks will be available for someone who might forget his/her mask. If you need to take a mask, please take it home with you. Please do not leave it behind.
5. To maintain physical distancing, only one person at a time in the restrooms, except in the case of a parent helping his/her child.

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